



REaSoN

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University of Warwick, Coventry, UK

TITLE OF TALK: Breaking Bad: a User's Guide to Quality Improvement

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Job Title: Consultant Neonatologist

Biographical Sketch:

Julie-Clare Becher is a Consultant Neonatologist and a Senior Lecturer in Child Life and Health at the University of Edinburgh. Within the Neonatal Service locally she has established the Newborn Care Collaborative, a new machine for change amalgamating Quality Improvement, Patient Safety, Audit and Guideline teams, which provides a strategic and unified vision for improvement and safety of clinical services across Lothian. She is also the Neonatal Advisor to the Maternity and Children's Quality Improvement Collaborative of the Scottish Patient Safety Programme, Neonatal Representative on the Scottish Child Death Review Steering Group, Chair of the Scottish Cooling Group, and Deputy Scottish Representative for the British Association of Perinatal Medicine.

LECTURE ABSTRACT:

Quality improvement is often seen as quick and dirty research without the quality control and rigour required of the research process .

However the value of QI is about delivering immediate and sustained improvement in healthcare and should be a necessary and integral activity for all medical institutions. Improving quality is about making healthcare safer, more effective and patient-centred and to do this optimally the neonatal team requires to have an understanding of quality improvement methodology as well as insight into how team and process factors influence engagement, implementation and sustainability. The measurement of process and outcomes is essential in understanding the effects of improvement, but determining appropriate definitions and identifying when observed change is real can be challenging.

The Scottish Patient Safety Programme has received international acclaim as being 'one of the most ambitious patient safety initiatives in the world –making Scotland the safest nation on earth from the viewpoint of healthcare' and the experience of the Scottish neonatal community in shaping this journey will be described.

An approach to basic QI methodology in the neonatal unit will be discussed with reference to the topics antimicrobial stewardship and breast milk feeding.